

Remarks

Claims 1, 8, 12 - 23, 29, 33 - 43, 47, 53, 57 - 64, 66 and 67 are amended, and claims 5, 9 - 11, 30 - 32, 54 - 56, and previously withdrawn claims 71 - 73 are canceled herein. Claims 4, 26 and 50 were previously canceled. Accordingly, claims 1 - 3, 6 - 8, 12 - 25, 27 - 29, 33 - 49, 51 - 53 and 57 - 70 are now in the application. No new matter is introduced by any of the amendments, and entry thereof is requested.

Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

In an Advisory action mailed February 9, 2006, the Examiner indicated that claims 9 - 15, 30 - 36 and 54 - 60, objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Originally claim 9 depended from claim 8, which depended from claim 1; claim 30 depended from claim 29, which depended from claim 23; and claim 54 depended from claim 53, which depended from claim 47.

Claim 1 is amended herein to include all the limitations of claims 8 and 9, and claim 8 is amended to include all the limitations of claim 9 (canceled) (claim 9 recites specified "selected" ranges as set out in claim 8); claim 23 is amended herein to include all the limitations of claims 29 and 30, and claim 29 is amended to include all the limitations of claim 30 (canceled) (claim 30 recites specified "selected" ranges as set out in claim 29); and claim 47 is amended herein to include all the limitations of claims 53 and 54, and claim 53 is amended to include all the limitations of claim 54 (canceled) (claim 54 recites specified "selected" ranges as set out in claim 53).


Accordingly, claims 1, 8, 23, 29, 47 and 53 are now in condition for allowance. Other claims are amended to correct dependencies and to ensure adequate antecedents, and still other claims are canceled in view of these amendments. As a result of amendment and cancellation of claims all the claims now under consideration in the application depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, claim 23, or claim 47.

Accordingly, all the claims now in the application -- namely, claims 1 - 3, 6 - 8, 12 - 25, 27 - 29, 33 - 49, 51 - 53 and 57 - 70 -- are in condition for allowance, and action to that effect is requested.

This Amendment is being made in lieu of an appeal brief, and it is being filed along with a Request for Continued Examination ("RCE") and fee therefor. It is believed that this Amendment puts the application into condition for allowance and, if the Examiner does not agree, then Applicants request that the Examiner contact Applicants' representative, undersigned, prior to sending a further Office action, to arrange a telephone interview to discuss the matter.

The RCE and this amendment are being filed within the fourth month following the filing of a Notice of Appeal and, accordingly, it is accompanied by a petition for two months' extension of time and a fee or fee authorization therefor. In the event the Examiner may determine that an additional extension of time be required in connection with the filing of this paper, petition is hereby made therefor, and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee[s] in connection therewith (or to credit any overpayment) to Deposit Account No. 50-0869 (MXIC 1516-1).

Respectfully submitted,


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